

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent and Principals of Persistently Low Performing Schools

FROM: Dewey Hensley, Associate Commission
Kevin Brown, Associate Commission
Terry Holliday, Commissioner

RE: Advisory Councils in PLA Schools

DATE: November 17, 2011

In the event a KDE Leadership Audit determines a School Based Decision Making Council lacks capacity to guide a “Persistently Low Achieving” school out of that status, an Advisory Council will be appointed to provide support to the school’s leadership. This council is described below:

1. The Commissioner of Education or his designee shall appoint the membership of the Advisory Council.
2. This Council will consist of no less than four members chosen from the following constituencies teachers, staff, administrators, parents, community and/or any other stakeholder group the Commissioner of Education determines necessary to provide advice and support to the leadership of the school, including students. It is important to note the Advisory Council’s mission is to provide advice to the school’s leader(s) in order to promote enhanced achievement in the school.
3. The Council will serve in an advisory role only. The Advisory Council is not imbued with any of the rights and designated powers of a “School Based Decision Making Council.”
4. The Council shall provide advice to the school principal in this advisory role concerning issues the Principal places on the agenda. The Principal may solicit agenda items/issues for discussion from the Advisory Council.
5. The school principal (under the supervision of the District Superintendent or his/her designee) shall establish the meeting schedule, agenda and location of the Advisory Council meetings and/or consultations.

It is important to note that PLA schools are expected to develop systems that lead to continuous improvement. In schools where the SBDM has been removed it is encouraged that the district and school leadership intentionally build “leadership teams” and develop capacity so that when School Based Decision Making Council is reestablished, the school has the disposition and infrastructure to comply with school governance requirements outlined in the Kentucky Revised Statutes.